

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4598

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 1252

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, AR
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S CONVERSATION WITH HARGUINDEGUY:
MORE PROMISES ON HUMAN RIGHTS

REF: 77 BUENOS AIRES 9282

1. AMBASSADOR SPENT AN HOUR WITH MINISTER OF INTERIOR
HARGUINDEGUY YESTERDAY (FEB 16) AND RECEIVED NEW
ASSURANCES THAT GOA CONCERN IS BEING EXPENDED ON
SUBJECTS HIGH ON OUR LIST: TIMERMAN, THE DEUTSCHES,
LILIANA VOGLER, DANIEL RUS--INTER ALIA.

2. ON TIMERMAN HARGUINDEGUY REPLIED THAT THE MATTER IS
OUT OF HIS HANDS. THIS IS SOMETHING THAT CAN BE DECIDED
ONLY BY THE JUNTA ITSELF, HE SAID, BUT THEN THE MINISTER
ADDED THAT HE WAS REASONABLY OPTIMISTIC THAT A WELCOME
DECISION WOULD COME FAIRLY SOON. (THE AMBASSADOR REPLIED
THAT THIS SOUNDED MORE AND MORE FAMILIAR.) HARGUINDEGUY
SAID THAT AS A FATHER HE UNDERSTOOD THE SITUATION FACED
BY ALEJANDRO DEUTSCH, JUST AS HE HAD UNDERSTOOD THE
BEHAVIOR OF GUILLERMO VOGLER TOWARD THE ARREST OF HIS
DAUGHTER. HE HOPED FOR FAVORABLE DEVELOPMENTS ON ALEJANDRO
SOON--HE WAS LESS CERTAIN REGARDING THE CASES OF THE
DEUTSCH AND VOGLER DAUGHTERS.

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3. HARGUINDEGUY SAID HE EXPECTED THAT THIS WEEK
TWENTY-ONE APPROVALS OF RIGHT OF OPTION WOULD BE GIVEN,
OUT OF FORTY-ONE CASES FULLY DOCUMENTED AND PRESENTLY
UNDER CONSIDERATION. WITH REGARD TO OUR OWN PROCESSING OF
CERTIFICATES REQUIRED BY EACH "OPTION" CANDIDATE,
HARGUINDEGUY REPEATED HIS OFFER TO LET US INTERVIEW

WHOMEVER WE FIND NECESSARY--SUGGESTING THAT WE WORK OUR DETAILS THROUGH THE DEPUTY INTERIOR MINISTER. HE LISTED THE COUNTRIES TO WHICH PENDING OPTION RELEASES WOULD BE GOING, INCLUDING BELGIUM, FRANCE AND ISRAEL.

4. HARGUINDEGUY ALSO SAID THAT HE WAS "STILL WORKING ON THE VANCE LIST"--THE LIST OF SOME 7,500 PERSONS DETAINED OR DISAPPEARED BROUGHT DOWN BY THE SECRETARY WHEN HE VISITED IN NOVEMBER AND DELIVERED SHORTLY THEREAFTER. THIS WAS INTERESTING, FOR UP UNTIL YESTERDAY WE HAD NOT KNOWN WHERE THE LIST HAD GONE OR AT WHAT LEVEL IT MIGHT BE RECEIVING ATTENTION.

5. AMBASSADOR CONFIRMED TO HARGUINDEGUY THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN USG AND GOA WERE SEVERELY STRAINED. AMBASSADOR TOSSED BY THE BALL TO MIN OF INTERIOR BY SAYING THAT GOA WAS IN A POSITION OF AMELIORATING THE DILEMMA BY RELEASING TIMERMAN, VOGLER AND DEUTSCH. AFTER PRAISING HARGUINDEGUY FOR HIS EFFORTS IN RELEASING OF PRISON LISTS, IMPLEMENTING RIGHT OF OPTION CASES, HARGUINDEGUY IN A FRIENDLY FASHION CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT IN THE NEAR FUTURE HE WOULD HAVE SOME POSITIVE NEWS. THAT THEN THERE WOULD BE NO EXCUSE FOR NON-COOPERATION FOR USG.
CASTRO

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